

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

The chairman welcomed 150 members and guests to the meeting which opened with a full Public Hall standing to observe a minute's reflective silence. This was in respect for all the people who suffered and are suffering as a result of the violent attacks that took place in Paris last Friday evening, 13/11/15.

Other notices included the press coverage in the Beccles and Bungay Journal - of our 1st anniversary celebration, and an update from one of our groups on their research on the History of the Public Hall.

Beccles U3A is a member of Suffolk and District Network of U3A's and representatives attend the bi-annual meetings which promote sharing good practices and ideas. From the meetings we have information on two local Suffolk meetings taking place next year. One is in February 18th at UCS Ipswich - "What is ageing and what can we do about it" and the other at the Apex in Bury St Edmunds in April 16th with a science theme. Details are below.

The chair drew members' attention to an additional website which helps people to avoid the pitfalls of fraudulent claims and scams. This site is located alongside our existing details in respect of fraud. It is important that members take the time to read all of this very relevant information and become more aware of the danger of this criminal practice.

Destroying Syria

Lee Marsden is Professor in International Relations at the University of East Anglia and at the November meeting gave an extremely topical and thought-provoking talk on how we should attempt to rethink the usual responses in the light of the recent Paris attacks.

The coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris brought the carnage and bloodshed experienced on a daily basis in Syria and Iraq to the European mainland. The latest in a series of attacks following the massacre of holiday makers on a Tunisian beach, bombings in Ankara, Baghdad and Beirut, and the downing of a Russian airline portends a cycle of violence that David Cameron previously declared as a generational struggle. While the world mourns with the people of Paris who have lost loved ones politicians rush to knee jerk responses that proclaim the mantra of 'something must be done'.

But what must be done, and should we be the ones doing it?

The full text of Professor Marsden's talk can be found at <http://www.ueapolitics.org/2015/11/18/after-paris-time-to-rethink-the-usual-responses/>, and by using the link to Destroying Syria. We have not attempted to summarise this since any editing would change the flow of his thinking.

The Eastminster website, mentioned by Lee, can be found at <http://www.ueapolitics.org/>#

(Vicki John)